

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 03974 202347Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /069 W  
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P R 202120Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5394  
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3974

EO 11652 GDS  
TAGS:PINT, PINS, DR  
SUB: POLICE CHIEF NIVAR RESIGNS

1. NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF, MAJOR GENERAL NEIT RAFAEL NIVAR SEIJAS, SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION IN A LETTER TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER JULY 19, NIVAR WROTE THAT HE CONSIDERED IT OBLIGATORY TO SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION FOLLOWING HIS PREPARATION OF NEW LEGISLATION WHICH WILL GOVERN THE FUNCTIONING OF THE NATIONAL POLICE.

2. THE BILL, WHICH IS ONE OF MAY PIECES OF LEGISLATION LONG IN PREPARATION CURRENTLY BEING RAPIDLY PASSED BY THE BALAGUER-CONTROLLED LAME DUCK CONGRESS (SEPTTEL), DICTATES THAT ONLY A POLICE GENERAL OFFICER MAY BE DESIGNATED AS POLICE CHIEF. (NIVAR IS AN ARMY GENERAL). NIVAR ALSO JUSTIFIED HIS RESIGNATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE HAS ALREADY SERVED AS POLICE CHIEF FOR MORE THAN THREE YEARS.

3. NIVAR'S RESIGNATION AS CHIEF OF POLICE IN MAY 1975 BY BALAGUER PRECIPITATED A MAJOR CRISIS IN THE MILITARY WHEN THE FOUR MOST SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS BELONGING TO THE FACTION LEAD BY THEN ARMED FORCES SECRETARY MAJOR GENERAL PEREZ Y PEREZ RESIGNED IN PROTEST. BALAGUER ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION AND ONLY LATER  
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PAGE 02 SANTO 03974 202347Z

REINTEGRATED THREE OF THE FOUR PROTESTING GENERALS BACK INTO POSITIONS IN THE GOVERNMENT.

5. SINCE THAT TIME, HOWEVER, NIVAR'S POWER WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES AND POLITICALLY GREW TO THE POINT WHERE HE WAS SECOND ONLY TO BALAGUER. HIS NEGATIVE WAS A MAJOR FACTOR IN CAUSING BALAGUER TO WITHDRAW FERNANDO ALVAREZ BOGAERT AS HIS

VICE-PRESIDENTIAL RUNNING MATE AND HEIR-APPARENT IN THE MAY 16 ELECTION. AND NIVAR IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO HAVE AUTHORED, PROBABLY WITH BALAGUER'S KNOWLEDGE, THE MAY 17 MILITARY INTERRUPTION OF THE VOTE COUNT AND THE SUBSEQUENT ELECTORAL CRISIS.

6. NIVAR'S REMOVAL FROM THE POWERFUL POLICE JOB HAS BEEN EXPECTED SINCE THE CRISIS BEGAN. BALAGUER APPEARED TO MAY OBSERVERS TO BE USING HIM AS A SCAPE GOAT WHEN IN HIS JULY 13 SPEECH CONCEDING ELECTORAL DEFEAT THE PRESIDENT CALLED THE MILITARY INTERRUPTION "UNAUTHORIZED." HOWEVER, THE RESIGNATION DOES NOT MEAN THAT NIVAR IS OUT COMPLETELY. RUMORS ARE RIFE OF LARGE-SCALE MILITARY CHANGES COMING AND IT IS BELIEVED NIVAR HAS HIS SIGHTS SET ON THE COMMAND OF THE FIRST BRIGADE, THE COUNTRY'S STRONGEST MILITARY FORCE.

7. PRESIDENT-ELECT ANTONIO GUZMAN THOROUGHLY DISTRUSTS NIVAR, HOWEVER, AND WOULD LIKELY OPPOSE HIS DESIGNATION TO ANY IMPORTANT COMMAND. NIVAR'S POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT BY BALAGUER TO ANOTHER POWERFUL POSITION, SHOULD IT OCCUR, COULD BE ONE OF THE FIRST TESTS OF GUZMAN'S CONTROL OVER THE MILITARY ONCE HE TAKES OFFICE.  
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## Message Attributes

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